


# OCCASIONAL PAPERS



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### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF SMALL MAMMALS IN TEXAS

HEATHER R. ROBERTS, TED W. JOLLEY, LOTTIE L. PEPPERS, JAMES C. CATHEY, ROSLYN MARTINEZ,  
JOHN A. PEPPERS, APRIL L. BATES, AND ROBERT D. BRADLEY

Distributional records for 24 species of mammals were obtained during faunal surveys conducted throughout Texas. These surveys were conducted in Dickens Co. in 1994, Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park (Lubbock Co.) on 14 April and 7 August 1996, Peach Point and Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Areas (Brazoria, Calhoun, and Refugio Cos.) from 16 March to 22 March 1996, and Gus Engeling and Richland Creek Wildlife Management Areas (Anderson, Freestone, and Navarro Cos.) from 4 June to 10 June 1996. An additional county record for Taylor Co. also is included. The records reported herein include one taxon of the Order Didelphimorphia, one of Insectivora, two of Chiroptera, one of Xenarthra, three of Lagomorpha, 13 of Rodentia, and three of Carnivora. These specimens represent county records as interpreted from distribution maps in Schmidly (1983) and Davis and Schmidly (1994). All voucher specimens are deposited in the Museum of Texas Tech University and are identified by the museum catalog number (TTU).

*Didelphis virginiana virginiana*  
Kerr, 1792  
Virginia Opossum

At the Afton locality, an adult female was collected in cattails and sedges surrounding a 13-acre im-

poundment. This impoundment was surrounded by a mixed mesquite grassland and farmland. The specimens collected at the Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park were trapped in a small, isolated forest of deciduous trees surrounding a small spring-fed lake. This wooded area was enclosed on all sides by a short-grass prairie.

*Specimens examined* (12).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 1, female specimen (TTU 76242), 11 September 1994; Lubbock Co., Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park, 8, two female specimens (TTU 76158; 76164) and six male specimens (TTU 76157; 76159-76163), 14 April 1996. Previously collected but unreported records from Lubbock Co. include: Lubbock, 1, female specimen (TTU 12327), 1969; Ransom Canyon, 1, female specimen (TTU 31598), 1977; 2.5 mi NE Lorenzo, 1, female specimen (TTU 60725), 1989.

*Cryptotis parva parva*  
(Say, 1823)  
Least Shrew

This specimen from the Peach Point Wildlife Management Area was collected from an apparent nest and associated run located under a wooden bridge or pier

piling that probably had been deposited in this mid-grass coastal prairie region during a hurricane or flood. The habitat was a typical mid-grass coastal prairie. Although the individual was a juvenile (eyes opened while in captivity), no other individuals were present at the time of capture. This species probably is rare for this area as there are very few trees, fallen logs, rocks, or other types of suitable cover.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Brazoria Co., 10 mi E Brazoria, Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, one juvenile specimen of undetermined sex (TTU 71581), 18 March 1996.

*Lasiurus borealis borealis*  
(Muller, 1776)  
Eastern Red Bat

These specimens from the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area were captured in a mist net early in the evening (before 2200 hrs) at a small pond of runoff water surrounded by forbs and grasses. A small stand of oak trees was approximately 100 m away from this pond and a large, solitary oak tree on the edge of the pond may have served as a roost.

*Specimens examined* (4).— Navarro Co., Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, 4, three female specimens (TTU 75361; 76112; 76114) and one male specimen (TTU 76113), 9 June 1996.

*Nycticeius humeralis humeralis*  
(Rafinesque, 1818)  
Evening Bat

This specimen from the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area was captured in the early evening hours at the same pond reported for *Lasiurus borealis*.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Navarro Co., Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, 1, female specimen (TTU 76115), 9 June 1996.

*Dasypus novemcinctus mexicanus*  
Peters, 1864  
Nine-banded Armadillo

Although only one specimen was collected at the Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, several individuals were seen over a period of three days. This specimen was collected at the interface of a dense forest and the roadside. The individual was pregnant and nearing the end of the gestation period as evidenced by four well-developed fetuses. This species appears to be common to abundant in this area. The specimens from the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area were collected in a densely vegetated pine-oak forest. The specimen from the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area was collected at the edge of a small pond surrounded by a mix of grasses and forbs and small stands of oak trees.

*Specimens examined* (4).— Brazoria Co., 10 mi E Brazoria, Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, 1, female specimen (TTU 71990), 17 March 1996; Anderson Co., Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, 2, female specimens (TTU 75423; 75407), 5 and 6 June 1996; Navarro Co., Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, 1, female specimen (TTU 75360), 9 June 1996.

*Sylvilagus aquaticus aquaticus*  
(Bachman, 1837)  
Swamp Rabbit

Two individuals were observed at the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area; however, only one was collected. Personnel at this wildlife management area stated that *S. aquaticus* routinely is observed on the property and probably is common. The specimen was collected at night along an open mesquite area interspersed with medium-height grasses.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Calhoun Co., 15 mi SW Port Lavaca, Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area, 1, male specimen (TTU 75212), 19 March 1996.

*Sylvilagus audubonii neomexicanus*

Nelson, 1907

Desert Cottontail

The specimens trapped at the Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park were collected in the short to medium-height grassland prairie typical of this region.

*Specimens examined* (6).— Lubbock Co., Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park, 3, one female specimen (TTU 76168) and two male specimens (TTU 76166-76167), 14 April 1996. Previously collected but unreported records from Lubbock Co. include: 5 mi NE Wolforth, 1, female specimen (TTU 2511), 1966; 1 mi E Lubbock Hwy. 40, 0.5 mi N Lubbock, 1, female specimen (TTU 5554), 1967; 12.8 mi E Slaton, 1, male specimen (TTU 5556), 1967.

*Sylvilagus floridanus alacer*

(Bangs, 1896)

Eastern Cottontail

This specimen from the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area was collected in a pine-oak forest of moderate understory.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Anderson Co., Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, 1, male specimen (TTU 75395), 5 June 1996.

*Chaetodipus hispidus hispidus*

(Baird, 1858)

Hispid Pocket Mouse

This specimen was collected in a sparsely vegetated area characterized by sandy soils and fragmented stands of oak forest at the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area. A vegetated fence row surrounded this site.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Anderson Co., Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, 1, male specimen (TTU 75422), 6 June 1996.

*Geomys breviceps*

Baird, 1855

Baird's Pocket Gopher

*Geomys breviceps* appears to be extremely abundant at the Peach Point Wildlife Management Area. These gophers are prevalent in areas characterized by well-drained, sandy soils.

*Specimens examined* (2).— Brazoria Co., 10 mi W Brazoria, Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, 2, female specimens (TTU 71891; 75107), 18 March 1996.

*Baiomys taylori taylori*

(Thomas, 1887)

Northern Pygmy Mouse

The specimens from the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area were collected in a coastal, short-grass prairie intermixed with mesquite. This area was bordered on one side by the Victoria Barge Canal and two other sides by various canals and creeks. *Baiomys* is probably more common in the drier, more inland areas. The specimens from the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area were collected along oak forest/short-grass prairie edges offering substantial cover.

*Specimens examined* (11).— Calhoun Co., 15 mi SW Port Lavaca, Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area, 4, three female specimens (TTU 75109-75111) and one male specimen (TTU 75190), 21 March 1996; Anderson Co., Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, 7, two female specimens (TTU 75379; 75389) and five male specimens (TTU 75382-75385; 75415), 5 and 7 June 1996.

*Neotoma floridana rubida*

Bangs, 1898

Eastern Woodrat

This specimen was collected in a dense, brushy, riparian habitat interspersed with numerous fallen logs and brush piles at the Peach Point Wildlife Management Area. No other individuals were captured and no

nest were seen. Area personnel reported frequent encounters with this species in barns and post piles, therefore this species probably is common in this area.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Brazoria Co., 10 mi W Brazoria, Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, 1, female specimen (TTU 71587), 17 March 1996.

*Neotoma micropus micropus*

Baird, 1855

Southern Plains Woodrat

This specimen from the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area was collected near an outbuilding and associated wood and post piles. The surrounding habitat was a coastal, short-grass prairie intermixed with mesquite. This species probably is rare to common in this region.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Calhoun Co., 15 mi SW Port Lavaca, Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area, 1, male specimen (TTU 75113), 21 March 1996.

*Onychomys leucogaster arcticeps*

Rhoads, 1898

Northern Grasshopper Mouse

The specimen from the Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park site was collected in a mid- to short-grass prairie near a prairie dog town.

*Specimens examined* (16).— Lubbock Co., Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park, 1, female specimen (TTU 76211), 7 August 1996. Previously collected but unreported records from Lubbock Co. include: Lubbock, 1, female specimen (TTU 2039), 1965; 5 mi N, 2 mi E Slaton, 3, one female specimen (TTU 2690) and two male specimens (TTU 2691; 2697), 1966; 12.8 mi SE Slaton, 1, female specimen (TTU 3750), 1967; 5 mi N Slaton, 2, one female specimen (TTU 3756) and one male specimen (TTU 3757), 1967; Lubbock, 1, female specimen (TTU 3758), 1967; 0.25 mi S Woodrow Road, 3 mi W Slide Road, 7, two female specimens (TTU 37148-37149) and five male specimens (TTU 37150-37154), 1981.

*Oryzomys palustris texensis*

J.A. Allen, 1894

Marsh Rice Rat

These specimens from the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area were collected in a short to medium-height grassland prairie that supported several species of herbaceous shrubs. Additionally, this habitat was adjacent to a marsh area containing a permanent source of water.

*Specimens examined* (7).— Freestone Co., Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, 7, three female specimens (TTU 75308-75309; 75312) and four male specimens (TTU 75268; 75307; 75310-75311), 7 and 8 June 1996.

*Peromyscus leucopus tornillo*

Mearns, 1896

White-footed Mouse

The specimens collected from 0.5 mi E Afton were trapped in a shiner-oak/mesquite grassland.

*Specimens examined* (22).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 5, three female specimens (TTU 76237-76238; 76240) and two male specimens (TTU 76239; 76241), 10 September 1994. Previously collected but unreported records from Dickens Co. include: 7 mi S, 10.5 mi W Dickens, 12, two female specimens (TTU 37172; 37179) and ten male specimens (TTU 37170-37171; 37173-37178; 37180-37181), 1981; Rylander Ranch, 1, male specimen (TTU 38684), 1981; 3 mi N, 8 mi W Spur, 1, male specimen (TTU 45570), 1987; 1 mi N, 4 mi E McAdoo, 3, one female specimen (TTU 57302) and two male specimens (TTU 57303-57304), 1989.

*Reithrodontomys fulvescens laceyi*

J. A. Allen, 1896

Fulvous Harvest Mouse

These specimens from the Afton locality were collected in a shiner-oak/mesquite grassland.

*Specimens examined* (7).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 7, three female specimens (TTU 67777-67779) and four male specimens (TTU 67776; 67780-67782), 13 February 1994.

*Reithrodontomys fulvescens aurantius*

J. A. Allen, 1895

Fulvous Harvest Mouse

These specimens from the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area were collected in a short- to mid-grass prairie intermixed with substantial shrub cover.

*Specimens examined* (15).— Navarro Co., Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, 15, five female specimens (TTU 75325-75328; 75364) and ten male specimens (TTU 75298; 75329; 75356-75358; 75365-75368; 75374), 10 June 1996.

*Reithrodontomys megalotis megalotis*

(Baird, 1858)

Western Harvest Mouse

The specimens collected at the Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park were trapped in the short to medium-height grassland prairie typical of this region. The specimens recorded from Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, were collected in a shinery-oak/mesquite grassland.

*Specimens examined* (28).— Lubbock Co., Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park, 5, two female specimens (TTU 76178; 76184) and three male specimens (TTU 76179-76180; 76183), 14 April 1996; Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 8, four female specimens (TTU 67786-67789) and four male specimens (TTU 67783-67785; 67795), 10 April 1994. Previously collected but unreported records from Lubbock Co. include: 1 mi N Loop 289, 1 mi W University, 1, male specimen (TTU 54940), 1987; 2 mi SW Idalou, 1, female specimen (TTU 56135), 1989; 12 mi N, 2 mi E Idalou, 2, one female specimen (TTU 57242) and one male specimen (TTU 57243), 1989; Lubbock, 2, one female specimen (TTU 58977) and one male specimen (TTU 58978), 1990; 2 mi E Lubbock, 2, one female specimen (TTU 59133) and one male specimen (TTU 59134), 1990;

Lubbock, 1, male specimen (TTU 61506), 1992. Previously collected but unreported records from Dickens Co. include: 1 mi N, 4 mi E McAdoo, 3, one female specimen (TTU 57324) and two male specimens (TTU 57325; 57328), 1989; 1 mi N, 4 mi E McAdoo, 3, one female specimen (TTU 57620) and two male specimens (TTU 57621-57622), 1990.

*Reithrodontomys montanus griseus*

(Bailey, 1905)

Plains Harvest Mouse

The specimens collected at 0.5 mi E Afton were trapped in a shinery-oak/mesquite grassland.

*Specimens examined* (5).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 3, female specimens (TTU 67790-67792), 13 February 1994. Previously collected but unreported records from Dickens Co. include: 8 mi W, 3 mi N Spur, 2, female specimens (TTU 45592-45593), 1987.

*Sigmodon hispidus berlandieri*

Baird, 1855

Cotton Rat

The specimens trapped at 0.5 mi E Afton were collected in cattails and sedges surrounding a 13-acre impoundment. This impoundment was surrounded by a mixed mesquite grassland and farmland.

*Specimens examined* (8).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 2, two female specimens (TTU 76235-76236), 10 September 1994. Previously collected but unreported records from Dickens Co. include: 10.5 mi W, 7 mi S Dickens, 1, female specimen (TTU 37077), 1981; 1 mi N, 4 mi E McAdoo, 5, four female specimens (TTU 57628-57631) and one male specimen (TTU 57632), 1990.

*Procyon lotor fuscipes*

Mearns, 1914

Common Raccoon

The specimen trapped at 0.5 mi E Afton was collected in cattails and sedges surrounding a 13-acre im-

poundment. This impoundment was surrounded by a mixed mesquite grassland and farmland.

*Specimens examined* (2).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 1, female specimen (TTU 67803), 13 February 1994. Previously collected but unreported records from Dickens Co. include: Spur Ranch, 1, specimen of unknown sex (TTU 42), 1959.

*Mephitis mephitis varians*

Gray, 1837

Striped Skunk

This specimen was collected at the edge of a short-to mid-grass prairie interspersed with mesquite at the Afton locality.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Dickens Co., 0.5 mi E Afton, 1, male specimen (TTU 76243), 21 October 1994.

*Conepatus mesoleucus mearnsi*

Merriam, 1902

Common Hog-nosed Skunk

This specimen from near Abilene was a road-kill from an area of intermixed oak/mesquite savanna.

*Specimen examined* (1).— Taylor Co., 8 mi SE Abilene (Hwy. 36), 1, female specimen (TTU 75240), 22 March 1996.

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*Addresses of authors:*

**HEATHER R. ROBERTS**

*Department of Biological Sciences,  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3131  
e-mail: izhrw@ttacs1.ttu.edu*

**TED W. JOLLEY**

*Department of Biological Sciences,  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3131  
e-mail: tjolley@ttacs.ttu.edu*

**LOTTIE L. PEPPERS**

*Department of Biological Sciences,  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3131  
e-mail: lpeppers@ttacs.ttu.edu*

**JAMES C. CATHEY**

*Gus Engleing WMA, Rt. 1 Box 27,  
Tennessee Colony, TX 75861  
e-mail: ewma@e-tex.com*

**ROSLYN MARTINEZ**

*Department of Biological Sciences,  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3131  
e-mail: zbj59@ttacs1.ttu.edu*

**JOHN A. PEPPERS**

*Department of Biological Sciences,  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3131  
e-mail: bjjap@ttacs.ttu.edu*

**APRIL L. BATES**

*Museum of Texas Tech University,  
Lubbock, TX 79409-3191  
e-mail: zjt12@ttacs.ttu.edu*

**ROBERT D. BRADLEY**

*Department of Biological Sciences and  
Museum of Texas Tech University,  
Lubbock, TX 79409-3131  
e-mail: izrdb@ttacs1.ttu.edu*